

## Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: WEEKLY SAUDI EDITORIAL REVIEW (FEBRUARY 18-24)

SUMMARY: MAJOR STRAIGHT NEWS SUBJECTS COVERED BY SAUDI PRESS LAST WEEK (FEBRUARY 18-24) WERE SADAT'S VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, ARAB LEAGUE'S MEDIATION OVER THE SPANISH SAHARA, ARAB DEMONSTRATIONS IN JERUSALEM AND THE INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CONFERENCE ON ISLAMIC ECONOMY, HELD HERE BY KING ABDUL AZIZ UNIVERSITY. U.S. RELATED EDITORIAL COMMENTARIES INVOLVED SADAT'S VISIT, INTRA-ARAB AND ARAB/US/ISRAELI ISSUES AND NIXON'S VISIT TO CHINA. (END SUMMARY)

### 1. SADAT VISIT:

ADNAN SALAH IN 2/24 JAZIIRA DAILY: "IT IS SILLY TO BELIEVE THAT AMERICA AS A STATE IS HOSTILE TO THE ARABS, AS SOME ARABS CLAIM, BECAUSE RELATIONS AMONG STATES ARE GOVERNED BY INTERESTS RATHER THAN BY LOVE AND

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AFFECTION. PRESIDENT SADAT...SAYS THAT HIS ATTITUDE

TOWARDS THE AMERICANS IS BASED ON EGYPTIAN AND ARAB INTERESTS. AS LONG AS THAT INTEREST LIES IN ACHIEVING REAPPROCHEMENT, THEN SADAT'S RELATIONSHIP WITH AMERICA MUST CONTINUE."

MUHAMMAD ALI HAFIZ QF 2/22 AL-MADINA: "SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD NOT ONLY DO ITS DUTY TOWARD EGYPT, BUT ALSO SHOULD LEAD A CAMPAIGN TO URGE THE ARAB OIL-RICH NATIONS TO HELP HER. THIS CALL IS NOT MADE OUT OF EMOTION, BUT STEMS FROM OUR DEEP FEELING AND APPRECIATION OF EGYPT'S ROLE WHICH WOULD NOT BE VIABLE WITHOUT A "STRONG AND RICH" EGYPT."

ENGLISH-LANGUAGE ARAB NEWS OF 2/21 SAID THAT "THIS VISIT MUST HAVE BEEN PROMOTED IN PART BY THE FACT THAT AN ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE MIGHT BE CONVENED NEXT APRIL. ANOTHER (REASON MAY BE) THE APPARENT DIMINISHING MOMENTUM IN THE DRIVE TOWARDS A PEACEFUL MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND THE DANGERS POSED BY THE POSSIBLE REEMERGENCE OF THE ABHORRED STATE OF NO WAR NO PEACE. THE U.S. HAS PLEDGED ITSELF TO A POLICY OF NOT ALLOWING THE SITUATION IN THE M.E. TO TURN INTO A STALEMATE BUT ALL THE SAME THE TREND TOWARDS A DEADLOCK IS MUCH TOO CLEAR TO BE IGNORED."

ON 2/22 SAME PAPER SAID: "LONG AGO SHREWD ARAB OBSERVERS REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT THE ARAB NATION WILL BE PROPERLY STEERED AND DEFENDED ONLY AS LONG AS RELATIONS BETWEEN RIYADH AND CAIRO REMAIN INTIMATE. OF COURSE THOSE OBSERVERS HAD IN MIND EGYPT'S MANPOWER AND STRONG ARMY AND SAUDI ARABIA'S SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP AND DISTINGUISHED ECONOMIC POSITION. (KING KHALID AND PRESIDENT SADAT) WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE A NEW REAPPRAISAL OF THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION AND GIVEN SATISFACTORY ANSWERS TO THOSE IN THE ARAB WORLD WHO, IMPATIENT WITH THE SLOW MOVES TOWARDS PEACE IN THE M.E., ARE INCREASINGLY MAKING THE GLOOMY REMARK THAT THE AREA, IN ITS QUEST OF PEACE, FINDS THAT IT IS ONLY CHASING A MIRAGE."

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### 3. INTRA-ARAB/US/ISRAELI ISSUES:

AHMAD M. MAHMUUD IN 2/22 AL-MADINA DAILY: "THE ARABS' RIFT WOULD ONLY PLEASE THE AMERICANS AND THE ISRAELIS. AMERICAN POLICIES ARE AGAINST ANY ISLAMIC OR ARAB UNITY BECAUSE THE U.S. INTERESTS FLOURISH AMIDST ARABS DIFFERENCES. IMPROVEMENT OF PRESENT ARAB SITUATION CAN ONLY BE ACHIEVED BY EITHER

HAVING THE CONFRONTATION STATES HELP EACH OTHER TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS POLITICALLY, OR BY HAVING SYRIA, JORDAN AND THE PALESTINIANS WAGE WAR AGAINST ISRAEL TO REGAIN THEIR LANDS".

IYAD MADINI IN 2/22 UKAZ REVIEWED IMPORTANCE OF JEWISH LOBBY IN THE U.S. AND SUGGESTED A SIMILAR ARAB EFFORT BY ASKING WHETHER "THE RECENTLY-HELD ARAB MINISTERS OF INFORMATION CONFERENCE THOUGHT ABOUT ORGANIZING AN ACTIVE ARAB LOBBY IN THE U.S. CONSISTING OF ARAB-AMERICANS."

4. NIXON'S VISIT TO CHINA:

IN UKAZ DAILY 2/24 UNNAMED WRITER EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT OVER "SPECTACULAR" CHINESE RECEPTION OF FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON, AND SAID THAT THIS VISIT HAS ONCE AGAIN PLACED NIXON IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE NEWS. "THIS IS A NICE CIMPLIMENT TO THE MAN WHO PUT AN END TO 20 YEARS OF U.S.-CHINESE EMITY."  
JONES

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